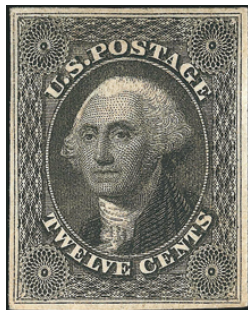
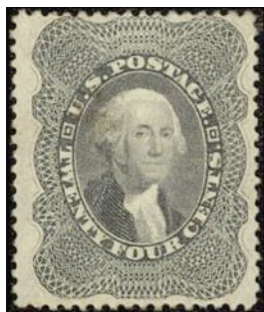


Early Classics Stage a Comeback

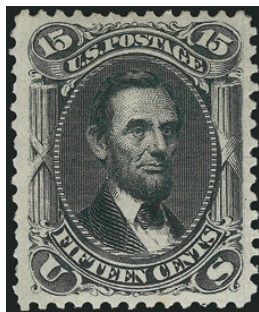
by John F. Dunn



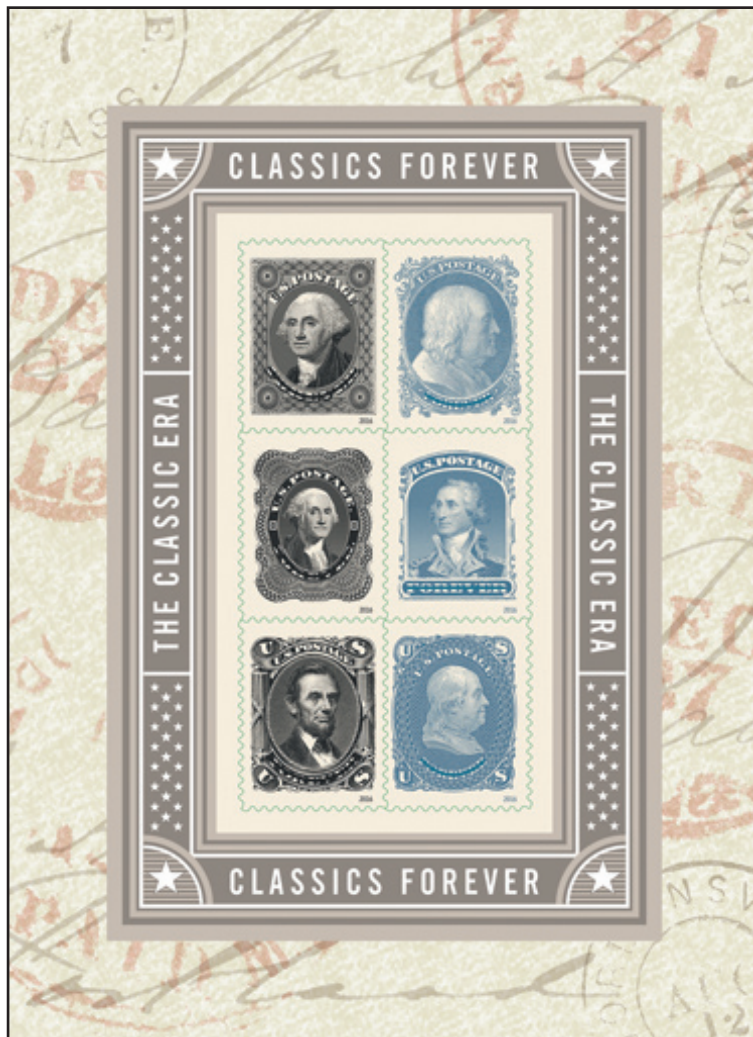
Scott 17



Scott 37



Scott 77



Scott 9



Scott 39



Scott 63

Issued in celebration of the long history of U.S. postage stamps, this souvenir sheet features new versions of six of America's earliest stamps, re-issued as Forever stamps to make them easily distinguishable from the mid-19th-century originals.

The stamps featured (from top, left to right) are:

Washington stamp, first issued in 1851 at 12 cents.

Franklin stamp, first issued in 1851 at one cent.

Washington stamp, first issued in 1860 at 24 cents.

Washington stamp, first issued in 1860 at 90 cents.

Lincoln stamp, first issued in 1866 at 15 cents.

Franklin stamp, first issued in 1861 at one cent.

Shown surrounding the souvenir sheet are examples of the

original stamps whose designs are reproduced in the souvenir sheet. In some instances—in particular the 1851 One Cent Blue—there are multiple Scott numbers for a given design, with a considerable range of values depending on the Type characteristics as described in detail in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*.

The selvage is composed of cancellations and script from envelopes contemporaneous with the stamps on a buff-colored background with a textured look intended to evoke stationery of the period.

The inner border is meant to be reminiscent of a star-spangled patriotic bunting.